

GOVERNMENT COMMANDEERS ALL RAILROAD LINES

McAdoo As Director General After Noon Tomorrow

GOVERNMENT WILL OPERATE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM AS WAR MEASURE GUARANTEEING UPKEEP AND AVERAGE PROFITS, ENDORSING NEW BONDS

WASHINGTON, December 27—(Associated Press)—At noon tomorrow all the railroad lines in continental United States will be taken over by the United States government as a war measure and the combined system will be operated as one. This was announced by the President yesterday evening, his announcement coming as the climax of an agitation that has been under way for several weeks.

William G. McAdoo, secretary of the treasury and son-in-law of the President, has been named as director general of the railroad board of management. His new duties will not make necessary his retirement from the cabinet, it is explained, and he will continue to act as the head of the treasury department.

With a view to the unification of the railroads, which will permit their more economical operation, the President has been in consultation with the leading railroad executives of the country, but he has not accepted their plan. The suggestion was made that the railroads be unified but operated by the present executives and not as a unit, but under the direction of the interstate commerce commission. This was the plan of the Railway War Board, although the interstate commerce commissioners themselves urged the operation of the roads by the President.

UPKEEP AND PROFIT PLEDGE

Accompanying the proclamation announcing the taking over of the railroads, the President issued a statement that he would go before congress and ask for definite guarantees that all the properties of the railroads will be maintained in good repair and the equipment kept up as completely as it is when the lines pass over into government control.

It will be further guaranteed that the net income from the lines will be for each what the average operating net income has been during the three years prior to June 30, 1917.

Discussing the momentous war step, officials here state that the main practical effect of the taking over of the railroads and their operation by the government will be to permit a complete unification of the entire rail system of the nation, something prohibited under the law so long as the lines were privately maintained and operated.

STEAMSHIPS INCLUDED

The plan of the government includes the taking over immediately of every road engaged in general transportation, with all their appurtenances, including the railroad owned steamship lines. Local inter-urban systems, which are generally electric, will not be included in the government system.

The direct management will remain in the hands of the present railroad officials, who will work under the Railroad War Board, the board itself being under the supervision of Secretary McAdoo.

BACKING FOR SECURITIES

Government backing will be given immediately to new issues of railroad securities, the proceeds from which are required to place the lines in first-class condition and in shape to handle the increased traffic they will be called upon to take care of. Various railroad officials have estimated the cost of the equipment required at a billion dollars. With the government back of the securities to be issued, a ready market is guaranteed.

The interstate commerce commission will continue to perform its regular functions, subject to the orders of the government director general.

The late Senator Newlands, who was, until his sudden death this week, chairman of the joint congressional committee on railroads, worked out many of the details which the President will now put into operation.

NEARLY HALF WORLD'S MILEAGE

The unified railroad system which will be operated by Secretary McAdoo includes nearly half the railroad mileage of the world, the main lines with their sidings being 391,141 miles. Europe has altogether less than 216,000 miles, exclusive of sidings, while on the continents of Asia, Africa and Australia there are not more than 110,000 miles, exclusive of sidings.

The American railroads in 1915, the latest year for which statistics are available, had 65,100 locomotives, 2,507,977 cars of all kinds and carried a total of 976,303,602 passengers.

The operating income from these railroads amounted to a total of \$2,956,193,200, with expenditures aggregating \$2,088,682,956.

The railroads will be operated now with a single purpose of expediting the transportation of freights. It is probable that some roads will be designated to be solely freight lines, with others to handle all the passenger traffic and troop movements.

SUBMARINE CAMPAIGN SUFFERS COLLAPSE

LONDON, December 27—(Associated Press)—Success of the Teuton submarine campaign has again waned. There was rejoicing last night when the admiralty issued its report of the losses of merchant shipping of last week for the loss of larger ships had again come to minimum figures. The sudden "drive" in the submarine warfare appeared to have completely collapsed.

But one vessel of more than 1000 tons burden was lost last week. It is true that the loss of smaller craft continued rather large, eleven, and one fisher, but the total was small and the minimum loss of large craft was considered as highly encouraging.

ARIZONA GOVERNORSHIP PASSES BACK AND FORTH

PHOENIX, Arizona, December 26—(Associated Press)—Thos. Campbell, declared by the state supreme court to be holding the governorship illegally, yesterday turned it over to his Democratic opponent in the election, W. P. Hunt. The transfer was made at a ceremony without features. Hunt had previously announced that he would retire in Campbell's favor.

THROAT OF SENTRY IS SLIT AFTER CAPTURE

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, December 26—(Associated Press)—German atrocities against American soldiers in France have already begun and yesterday were made the subject of an official report by a commander. The report says that an American sentry was found dead, his throat cut. It is declared, after examination, that the man was first captured and then killed by cutting his throat.

STEAMSHIP MAN DIES SAN FRANCISCO, December 26—(Associated Press)—Capt. George Scott, a director of the Dollar Steamship Company and for several years a pilot in and out of this harbor died yesterday, aged 61. He was widely known in coast marine circles.

UNNECESSARY WORDS Why waste words and advertising space in describing the many points of merit in Chamberlain's Cough Remedy? The most fastidious are satisfied when we state that it cures colds and coughs from any cause, and that it contains absolutely no narcotics or injurious substances. For sale by all dealers. For sale by Benson, Smith & Co., Ltd., Agts. for Hawaii. Advertisement.

Central Powers Ready For Immediate Peace On Terms Of Status Quo Ante

PETROGRAD, December 27—(Associated Press)—Germany, Austro-Hungary and Bulgaria are ready now to talk peace on the general grounds of "no annexations and no indemnities." This announcement was made definitely on Tuesday at Brest-Litovsk, before the Russo-Teuton peace negotiations were broken off. Count Czernin, the foreign minister for Austro-Hungary, as spokesman for the Central Powers, read a prepared statement of the position of his nation and its allies, stating that the Central Powers had agreed to accept an immediate, general peace on the terms of the status quo ante. If the Entente will agree to accept a peace without forced annexations and without indemnities of any kind, the Central Powers will immediately agree to an armistice and bring the war to an end.

HEALTH CONDITION OF CAMPS NOT GOOD

Charges By Surgeon General Gorgas Result In Investigation Staged By Senate

WASHINGTON, December 26—(Associated Press)—The senate military affairs committee today listened to testimony as to conditions in Camps Wadsworth and Bowie.

This committee investigation grows from charges made by the surgeon general which are told of in newspapers just received from the mainland but of which no wireless or cable messages were received here.

The article printed under the date of Washington, December 18, says: "Sensational charges of unsanitary conditions at army training camps by Surgeon General William C. Gorgas were made public tonight by Secretary of War Baker."

Copies of the reports made to the chief of staff by General Gorgas on conditions at four of the camps were given out. They are: Funston, Kan.; Sevier, S. C.; Doniphan, Okla., and Bowie, Tex. They allege:

Excessive deaths at the camps due to overcrowding.

Failure of winter clothing to arrive.

Location of camps in infectious territories.

Inadequate and incomplete hospital facilities.

Pneumonia, meningitis, measles and mumps cause many deaths.

Reason for Sickness

It is the first time official admission has been made that the death rate is excessive. Blame is placed on the failure of the War Department machinery to provide adequate accommodations.

Overcrowding is in every case blamed for the extensive sickness. Men were placed ten and twelve in a tent, allowing only twenty cubic feet of air space per man, when the proper space should have been much larger, with only five men to a tent.

In each of the camps there was no attempt to quarantine new arrivals until they had been proven free from infectious diseases. This, General Gorgas intimates, was unavoidable when as many as 36,000 men were poured into a camp in a few days.

Detention Camps

He recommends the immediate establishment of detention and separation camps for the sick men, issue of tents until there are but five men to each, rushing warm woolen clothing and a careful examination of every command before it leaves the camp, where it has been infected.

Of Camp Funston, General Gorgas said:

"I call attention to the fact that they had 84 deaths (in the last month) when the normal death rate of such a command should be about twelve."

This part of the country, General Gorgas says, has been well known as a center of epidemic meningitis to all health officers for years. Yet, the camp was built in the river bottom, where storms of dust blow about the streets. To the dust and the crowding he attributes the excessive pneumonia rate. The men had no winter clothing and no heat in the barracks.

Of Camp Sevier he says:

"Sanitary conditions here are serious. Sixty men have died of pneumonia within the past month."

"I am informed that shipments of winter clothing are coming in rapidly and issued to the men as fast as received," says General Gorgas. "From personal observation, however, I find that many men are still wearing their cotton khaki clothing." This report was dated December 17.

All Overcrowding

At Camp Bowie the same prevalence of diseases due to overcrowding and insufficient clothing is noted. Conditions here are described as the worst of any camp visited. They have disturbed the Governor of Texas and the local health authorities.

Italians Counter And Hold Some of Ground Gained

Battle On Italian Front Continues With Unabated Violence While On Other Fronts the Fighting Is Below Normal

NEW YORK, December 27—(Associated Press)—Throughout yesterday the battle of the Italian front waged with continued violence with the Italians taking the offensive as they had done on Christmas day and launching a series of successful counters against the Austro-German forces.

West of the Brenta river the Italians followed up the advantage of their counters of Tuesday with other successful counters and on this sector maintained the gains of both days.

Battle Rages Fiercely

It was in the vicinity of Del Rose Hill and Monte Devalbella where the most severe fighting of the bloody day occurred. In that sector in the morning the Italians countered fiercely and for several hours the engagement proceeded with great violence. In these counters the Italians wrested several positions from the enemy, but before renewed onslaughts and with largely reinforced bodies engaged in the attacks, the Italians were forced to give some of their ground which had been taken but with some gains won in the battle still in their possession when night fell.

Quiet On West

On the Belgian front and in France the fighting continued below normal and consisted, as for the past few days, of bombardments and raid. The increase noted on Tuesday in the Verdun sector had abated and the constant bombardment of German big guns was all that there was to show of the threatened offensive of the previous day.

On Christmas on the Italian front the battle continued from early morning until far into the night. The Italians generally had the advantage of the day but in the mountain passes that led to the Bassano Plains there were small gains by either.

A British air squadron on Christmas day bombarded Mannheim. Numerous fires were started from the ton of bombs dropped on the German town.

Eighteen Millions

ARE RED CROSS LEGION

WASHINGTON, December 26—(Associated Press)—Announcement was made here today that the Red Cross Christmas "drive" has netted more than 13,000,000 members, bringing the total to 18,000,000.

TOBACCO IS NECESSITY FOR BRITISH SOLDIERS

LONDON, December 26—(Associated Press)—Lord Rhonda, food controller of Britain, today declared that tobacco is a necessity for the troops and that it should not be classed as a luxury. He believes the loss of tobacco for the troops would be a national misfortune. The local papers are forecasting a new system of rationing.

AN IMPROVED QUININE DOES NOT AFFECT THE HEAD

Because of its tonic and laxative effect, LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE will be found better than ordinary Quinine. Does not cause nervousness, nor ringing in the head. Remember, there is only one "Bromo Quinine." The signature of E. V. Groves is on each box.

BOLSHEVIKI CHARGE DENIED BY FRANCIS

United States Ambassador At Petrograd Says He Has Not Interfered In Affairs

WASHINGTON, December 27—(Associated Press)—A firm rebuttal was made by Ambassador David R. Francis at Petrograd on Tuesday of the charges of Bolsheviki leaders against his action in defense of Food Administrator Herbert C. Hoover and the sugar commission yesterday. He says that by agreement reached between the federal commission, the International Commission and the Cuban commission, appointed by President Menocal, a price of \$4.06 a hundred pounds in Cuba has been agreed upon.

The defense of the food administration and the sugar commissions came as the result of the attacks made upon those bodies by Claus Spreckels when testifying before the senate committee which has been investigating the sugar shortage.

Incalculable harm will come to the war plans of this country if the people shall come to believe that there is an abundance of sugar for the United States and its allies and that the sugar shortage is not real, was the telling assertion of President Wilson in his statement.

The President, in his statement of yesterday says that before the war the Allies secured from the Central Powers most of their sugar, all but about 300,000 tons, while now they take from this hemisphere 1,300,000 tons instead of 300,000.

There has been an actual shortage of sugar this year, as Hoover alleged, and that shortage will continue next year as well, the President said. He told of the unprecedented demand there has been and will be for Cuban sugar despite the large crop that it is impossible to harvest. The output will be below the normal demands of

Disension Is Rife

Turn with disension in its own ranks, the Bolsheviki government is tottering. There is a growing unanimity of statement in the Petrograd despatches indicating the waning power of the Bolshevik regime. The causes of the alleged breakdown are said to be increasing drunkenness among the people, reluctance to work and scarcity of food.

Instances are cited of Bolsheviki troops refusing to march and of making no resistance to disarmament. The leaders of the movement are reported to be conscious of its hopeless failure, and there is noted the tremendous growing opposition to the ultra-radical rule. Former supporters of the Linnine-Trotsky government are now opposing it. "German hirelings" is a common epithet used against the leaders and followers of the Bolsheviki.

The postponement of the peace negotiations at Brest-Litovsk has resulted in the return of the Russian commissioners to Petrograd. Apparently they intend to await the arrival of the enemy delegations to discuss the political aspects of an armistice conference.

I. W. W. Plot

United States government agents have uncovered evidence tending to show that the I. W. W. is working with the Bolsheviki element in Russia and with other anarchistic and rabid Socialist elements in a world-wide plot to overthrow all the existing orders of society, all government and all rule of officials.

The steamer Shilka arriving at a Pacific port from Russia has been discovered to carry arms and ammunition, and this is but one of several instances in which arms are being sent to the United States from the ultra-radicals of Russia.

Because of this and other incidents, a federal inspection of all crews of incoming vessels was ordered yesterday.

Claim Korniloff Beaten

The Bolsheviki leaders announce that General Korniloff, who has been stoutly opposing them, has been defeated in a battle near Bielgorod, his machine guns and munitions captured, and his troops suffering severe casualties.

The Bolsheviki were reported to be attacking the town of Kharkov, 400 miles south of Moscow, and the railroads serving the south of Moscow country. It is declared that much of this country is now in control of the Bolsheviki, who are stopping Cosack troops on trains bound for the north.

Trouble In Bulgaria

News has been received in Petrograd of revolutionary plots flaring up against Czar Ferdinand of Bulgaria. Conditions in Bulgaria are said to be greatly disturbed. This news confirms previous reports that a revolution in Bulgaria was developing.

Fighting In Siberia

News was received by way of Peking that the Trans-Siberian railway has been cut near Irkutsk, Siberia, where

BELIEF THAT SUGAR IS PLENTY MENACE TO PLANS FOR WAR

WASHINGTON, December 27—(Associated Press)—Arrangements for the purchase of a large part of the Cuban sugar crop, now estimated to reach a total of 3,000,000 tons, are told in a statement issued by President Wilson in defense of Food Administrator Herbert C. Hoover and the sugar commission yesterday. He says that by agreement reached between the federal commission, the International Commission and the Cuban commission, appointed by President Menocal, a price of \$4.06 a hundred pounds in Cuba has been agreed upon.

The defense of the food administration and the sugar commissions came as the result of the attacks made upon those bodies by Claus Spreckels when testifying before the senate committee which has been investigating the sugar shortage.

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the United States and its Allies unless the latter go to Java for sugar for which at the present time there is not adequate shipping.

Attacks Are Resented

The statement denies emphatically that sugar stocks were allowed to go unworked, thus causing an artificial shortage and also that sugar was left in Cuba while an effort was made to bear down prices.

"If such statements go unchallenged and the public believe them and that there is an abundance of sugar it will do incalculable harm to the war efforts of the country," he said.

The occasion for the testimony by President Wilson arose from the testimony given the senate committee by Claus Spreckels. When the time came for Hoover or Bahr to answer the state department asked that Cuban affairs be not further discussed. Hoover was therefore shut off from reply and made an appeal to the President.

The committee which has been investigating the sugar shortage is composed of Senators Reed of Missouri, Vardaman of Mississippi, Jones of New Mexico, Lodge of Massachusetts and Kenyon of Iowa, the two latter being the Republican members.

The figures of \$4.06 in this despatch differ from the announcements heretofore made of a price of \$4.00 a hundred in Cuba. The advertiser had the cable company query to verify these figures and was informed that such was the text of the message which was filed in its San Francisco office. It may be, and it is probable that such is the case, an error in the filing of the message by the Associated Press, the cipher and the six having been transposed in typing the message but this it was impossible to learn at the hour which the message was received this morning.

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BLISS TO REMAIN AS CHIEF OF STAFF

Secretary Daniels Makes Announcement—Archie Roosevelt Recommended For Captaincy

WASHINGTON, December 27—(Associated Press)—General Bliss will be retained as chief of staff, Secretary of War Baker announced last night. No change is contemplated at present at least.

Other announcements made by the war department were that General Pershing has recommended that Archibald Roosevelt shall receive a commission as captain.

On Tuesday General Pershing reported the death of Lieutenant James Paul, killed in an aviation accident, and of two privates, who were killed in action on November 15. He reports that of the deaths recorded, two died of wounds, two from accidents and six from natural causes.

SHORTAGE OF COAL IS UNDER PROBE NOW

WASHINGTON, December 26—(Associated Press)—The coal shortage has displaced the sugar shortage as center of attention by the investigating senate subcommittee. Dr. Harry G. Field, fuel controller, was called to the stand today and the testimony of Herbert Hoover, food controller, will probably not be given until Friday.

PRINCESS TATIANA IS REPORTED AT PEKING

TOKIO, December 26—(Cable to Nippu Jiji)—Princess Tatiana, daughter of the former czar of Russia arrived at the Russian legation in Peking yesterday. It is not known definitely whether she will visit the United States. According to reports from China, the princess was in the best of health upon her arrival.

AGREE TO ARBITRATE ALL LABOR DISPUTES

CHICAGO, December 26—(Associated Press)—John R. Williams was today appointed referee of all labor disputes which arise in the parking house industry. Packers and employees of all the principal firms have agreed to accept his decisions and not to engage in strikes or lockouts for the term of the war.

A Bolsheviki force destroyed a big rail road shop.

Heavy fighting is reported at many places in Siberia, between the Bolsheviki's hastily organized troops and those who were identified with and still support the original revolution.

HUNS KNEW OF SHIPS' MOVEMENT IS SHOWN

AN ATLANTIC PORT, December 26—(Associated Press)—Passengers arriving at this port yesterday say that in at least one instance a German submarine crew knew of the movements of a steamer carrying American officers. It is declared that the crew of this submarine, which was captured while moving undersea and later sunk, knew the movements of the steamer in question, and that the submarine lay in wait for the vessel to sink her. That the sneaking tactics of the U-boat was not successful was due to the vigilance of the convoying vessel, which repelled the planned attack and later drove the submarine to capture, say the passengers.

Ben Bruns, Medicine Man

Ben Bruns, known all over the States as the medicine man, is in Honolulu, extolling the virtues of the wonderful B. B. C. medicine. The fame of this marvelous remedy has penetrated Hawaii and it is on sale at all the drug stores. B. B. C. is short for Bro. Benjamin Compound, and is a preparation composed of roots and herbs, contains no alcohol or poisonous habit-forming drugs. A fine general tonic with great stomach virtues, curing indigestion and dyspepsia, creating an appetite and is at the same time a gentle laxative. The B. B. C. medicine for the blood has no equal—as it makes new rich blood and cleanses the impurities from the system, curing rheumatism and other blood disorders. For kidney and bladder trouble—diabetes and gravel it is especially helpful for weak, delicate, nervous, anemic and run-down people—old and young it acts like a charm, and a ten days' use of the B. B. C. medicine brings an amazing amount of strength and vitality to the system, even in what are considered extreme cases. B. B. C. is scientifically prepared